

AGENDA REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2021

TO: Environmental Commission

PREPARED BY: Commissioners Honsberger, Bisconer, and Cramer

SUBJECT: Plastic Pollution – Analysis and Recommendation on the Regulation of Lighter than Air Balloons in Encinitas

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a Recommendation from the Environmental Commission to the City Council to:

1. Adopt a resolution and ordinance that bans the sale, use, and release of all lighter than air balloons in the city of Encinitas. This ban would not apply to scientific balloons released by the state or federal governments and/or hot air balloons.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 13, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting, three Encinitas residents/Surfrider Volunteers (Mark O'Connor, Tina Overland, B.L. Lewis) wrote to encourage the commission to consider a ban on the use of helium filled balloons.

On September 16, 2020, the City of Encinitas City Council approved the 2020-2021 Environmental Commission Work Plan. Goal #15 in the approved work plan reads as follows:

“Plastic Pollution – Continue to identify and develop strategies to recycle and/or regulate plastic pollution sources. This may include, but not be limited to balloons and mylar products.”

ANALYSIS:

Lighter than air balloons are sold in approximately eight retail establishments in Encinitas and pose multiple threats to animals, humans, and the environment. Plastic pollution from improperly disposed of and/or deteriorating balloons directly impacts the environment, wildlife, domesticated animals, and human health, and indirectly impacts

the city's economy when it becomes beach litter. Lighter than air balloons are also a menace to utilities and fire departments, and when filled with helium, they threaten to deplete a precious, non-renewable resource important to science, industry and medicine. The following describes these threats in more detail.

Plastic pollution is a significant environmental challenge and microplastics have been found in our drinking water, food, and the air we breathe. While plastic pollution reduction efforts have focused on single-use plastic bags, bottles, utensils and straws, balloons have been overlooked¹. Latex and Mylar are the two types of balloons in general use. Mylar balloons are petroleum-based and not biodegradable, and while latex does biodegrade, the latex balloons contain petroleum-based additives and are therefore not 100% biodegradable. Researchers have observed that latex balloons deteriorate slowly and retain their elasticity even after floating in the ocean for 12 months². The release of both of these types of balloons results in additional plastic pollution which negatively impacts the safety of our citizens, wildlife, oceans, coastlines, and communities.

The Ocean Conservancy has determined that latex and Mylar balloons are the most common form of floating garbage within 200 miles of American shorelines³. Beach litter surveys have shown that the number of balloons and balloon pieces found on beaches has tripled in the past 10 years⁴. According to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries bulletin, every balloon released during well-meaning celebrations returns to earth as trash, with grave potential to injure or kill wildlife. Balloons can travel hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles before landing, and those that land in the ocean resemble jellyfish, a favorite food of the green sea turtles residing off the coast of Encinitas⁵. This turtle species is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The 2018 NOAA Hollings Scholar, Laura Anthony, wrote that although balloons appear to float into space and to be lost forever, they will always come back down⁶. Balloon releases provide a brief moment of celebration, but the balloons can persist in environments such as the deep sea for years or centuries before becoming microplastics, an increasing threat to these habitats. Additionally, balloons can sink thousands of meters to the ocean floor where they pollute deep-sea habitats (Figure 1). Once in the ocean, balloons become a hazard for marine wildlife (Figure 2). They are mistaken as food by federally-protected dolphins, whales, sea turtles and many other marine species. When ingested, balloons lead to a loss of nutrition, internal injury, starvation, and death⁶. Another hazard are the balloon strings and ribbons that can wrap around marine organisms and entangle them, causing injury, illness, and suffocation⁷.

Balloon debris also negatively impacts land animals and birds. According to the organization Balloons Blow...Don't Let Them Go, cows, dogs, sheep, tortoises, birds,

and other terrestrial animals have all been injured or killed by balloons (Figure 3). Animals can become entangled in the balloon and its ribbon making them unable to move or eat. If ingested, the balloon will block the animal's digestive tract, preventing it from absorbing nutrients and causing the animal to slowly starve⁴.

Balloon debris can even have a negative economic impact by contributing to dirty beaches, parks and communities which can create added costs to cities' budgets and drive away tourists. An article published by NOAA's Marine Debris Program states that balloon debris on shorelines contributes to dirty beaches, deterring tourists and residents from visiting and enjoying them⁷.

Mylar balloons have also proven to be a constant menace to utilities and fire departments. Their metallic silvery coating serves as a conductor for electricity, which means they can short transformers and melt wires when they come near a high-voltage line⁸. Mylar balloons pose a risk to our communities by sparking fires and interrupting electric service to essential facilities such as hospitals, schools, and traffic lights. According to SDG&E, over the past five years mylar balloons have been identified as the cause of more than 500 power outages in the San Diego region's electrical system⁹.

Professor Andrea Sella from University of College London explains that helium is a unique and precious non-renewable resource that is predicted to run out in 25 years due to human use. When it's gone, it is lost to us forever¹⁰. This is of great concern because helium plays an important role in science, industry, and medicine. A few of the most important uses of helium are in MRI machines, the production of computer chips, and fiber optics. Cambridge University chemist Peter Wothers has called for an end to it being used in balloons. He states that "We're going to be looking back and thinking, I can't believe people just used it to fill up their balloons, when it's so precious and unique" ¹⁰. There have already been helium shortages in San Diego and nationwide, causing retailers to suspend the sale of helium filled balloons¹¹. It is therefore likely that the sale of helium balloons will continue to decline due to the decrease in helium availability and prioritization of its use for more essential activities such as medical treatment and research.

There are eight known retailers in the city of Encinitas that sell lighter than air filled balloons (Smart n' Final, Stater Brothers, Vons, 99 Cents Only, Ralphs, 1-800-Flowers, Party City and The Dollar Store). An informal survey was recently conducted and three of the retailers (Party City, The Dollar Store and 1-800 Flowers) responded that lighter than air balloons account for 20%, 1% and 15% of overall sales respectively. The other five retailers declined to comment to date. Many of these retailers also sell balloon arrangements that do not require lighter than air filled balloons (Figure 4). With the recent helium shortage, artists and designers have been creating air-only filled balloon designs that include arches, bouquets, and hanging arrangements. It is believed that

increased sales of these air-only filled balloon designs will off-set the loss of revenue from lighter than air balloon sales and also provide the public with viable alternatives.

Glendale, Malibu, and Hermosa Beach, all in Los Angeles county, have adopted bans on lighter than air balloons (Table 2). Many cities and some states across the nation are working to stop the sale and release of lighter than air balloons to reduce the harmful plastics that they leave behind in our oceans, parks and beaches. Plastics will continue to be part of our environment in the near-term, despite waste reduction efforts. Nevertheless, the most effective way to reduce balloon debris in the city's waterways and to protect our local environment is to prohibit the sale and intentional release of lighter than air filled balloons due to their frequent escapement into the atmosphere and high likelihood of becoming coastal pollution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Model Ordinance – Product Stewardship Institute
2. Municipal Code Language Examples
3. Sample Resolution

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1. O'Brien, L. and Brines, S., 2020. *Balloon releases have deadly consequences – we're helping citizen scientists map them*. [online] The Conversation. Available at: <<https://theconversation.com/balloon-releases-have-deadly-consequences-were-helping-citizen-scientists-map-them-129321>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://theconversation.com/balloon-releases-have-deadly-consequences-were-helping-citizen-scientists-map-them-129321>

2. Duncan, Debra. "Balloons: Balloons Pose a Risk to Wildlife and the Environment." *Environmental Nature Center*, ENC, 2016, encenter.org/visit-us/programs/birthday-parties/balloons.

<https://encenter.org/visit-us/programs/birthday-parties/balloons/>

3. Wilcox, Chris, et al. "Using Expert Elicitation to Estimate the Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Marine Wildlife." *Marine Policy*, vol. 65, 2016, pp. 107–14. *Crossref*, doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2015.10.014. (ocean conservancy).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X15002985>

4. Balloons Blow. 2021. *Impacts on Wildlife & the Environment - Balloons Blow*. [online] Available at: <<https://balloonsblow.org/impacts-on-wildlife-and-environment/>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://balloonsblow.org/impacts-on-wildlife-and-environment/>

5. NOAA Fisheries. 2018. *FishNews – June 13, 2018*. [online] Available at: <<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/bulletins/1f72ca0>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/bulletins/1f72ca0>

6. Anthony, L., 2019. *The Scary Truth About Party Balloons | OR&R's Marine Debris Program*. [online] Blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov. Available at: <<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/scary-truth-about-party-balloons>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/scary-truth-about-party-balloons>

7. Blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov. 2018. *What Goes Up, Must Come Down! | OR&R's Marine Debris Program*. [online] Available at: <<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/what-goes-must-come-down>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/what-goes-must-come-down>

8. Gibson, K., 2020. *Mylar balloons are fun! They're also a dangerous menace*. [online] Cbsnews.com. Available at: <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mylar-balloons-and-power-lines-a-potentially-explosive-mix/>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mylar-balloons-and-power-lines-a-potentially-explosive-mix/#:~:text=They're%20also%20a%20dangerous%20menace,-By%20Kate%20Gibson&text=Beyond%20disrupting%20electric%20service%2C%20mylar,weeks%20and%20float%20for%20miles.>

9. Nikolewski, R., 2020. *Power lines and Mylar balloons don't mix*. [online] San Diego Union-Tribune. Available at: <<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2020-05-19/power-lines-and-mylar-balloons-dont-mix>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2020-05-19/power-lines-and-mylar-balloons-dont-mix>

10. BBC News. *“Helium Shortages: Should It Be Used for Party Balloons?”* BBC News, BBC, May 2019, Available at: <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48237672>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48237672#:~:text=While%20balloons%20are%20fun%2C%20helium,tasks%2C%20rather%20than%20simply%20decorations.>

11. Thayer, Kate. “5 Things to Know about Helium, the Shortage and Why Retailers Are 'Panicked' about Balloons.” *Tribune*, San Diego Union-Tribune, 29 May 2019, www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/mc-life-helium-shortage-five-things-cb-tt-20190528-20190529-rhidnfflhbfg3cv25wgnl4wsci-story.html.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/mc-life-helium-shortage-five-things-cb-tt-20190528-20190529-rhidnfflhbfq3cv25wqnl4wsci-story.html>

Figure 1: Deep Ocean Floor Balloons



Mylar balloon (depth of 496 m) seen on Dive 15 of Gulf of Mexico 2018 expedition (Photo: NOAA).



Happy birthday Mylar balloon (depth of 1,116 m) seen on Dive 16 of ROV Exploration of the Northeast US Deepwater Canyons 2013 expedition (Photo: NOAA).

<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/scary-truth-about-party-balloons#:~:text=Balloons%20can%20be%20mistaken%20for,marine%20debris%20are%20completely%20preventable.>

Figure 2: Balloon Entanglement and Ingestion



A synthetic ribbon trails from the mouth and wraps around the front flippers of a Kemp's ridley turtle found near Sarasota, Fla. The juvenile turtle had ingested the latex end of a balloon. (Photo: ©Blair Witherington, 2017)

<https://wildlife.org/tws-members-citizen-science-project-tracks-a-wildlife-hazard-balloons/>



The sea turtle pictured above has a balloon and ribbons wrapped around its neck. The ribbon then became entangled with a stick, four times the length of the turtle. (Photo: NOAA, 2019)

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/saving-sea-turtles>

Figure 3: Balloons and Birds




 <p>Photo: David E. Gurniewicz</p>	 <p>Photo: D. Sauvageau</p>	 <p>Photo: Lauren Roman</p>
<p>Dead bird entangled in latex balloon ribbons. (Photo: D. Gurniewicz)</p>	<p>Owl entangled in balloon ribbons. (photo: D. Sauvageau)</p>	<p>Latex balloon in the stomach contents of a dead bird. (Photo: L. Roman)</p>
<p>https://balloonsblow.org/</p>		

Figure 4: Balloon arrangements without lighter than air gas (air only).

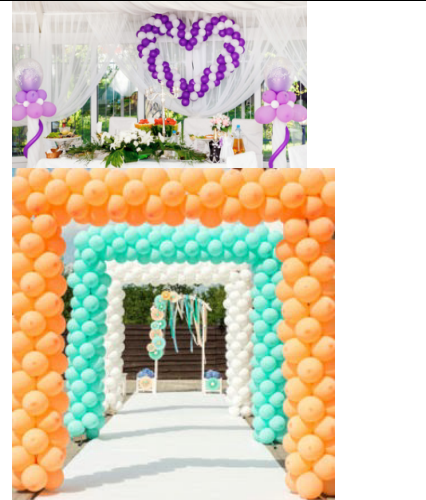


		
<p>Non-Helium Decorations by PAPERPLUS</p>	<p>1-800- Flowers</p>	<p>Vons/Alberton's Store</p>
<p>https://www.paperplusoutlet.com/blog/no-helium-no-problem-decorating-with-non-helium-balloons/</p>	<p>https://www.1800flowerscarleplace.com/1-800-flowers-birthday-dish-gardenand-8482/3361/</p>	<p>https://www.albertsonsso calflowers.com/category/gifts_balloons/1/display</p>

Table 1: Balloon Sales Survey Data (Collected 4/12/2021 and 4/27/21)		
Store	Balloons sales by store	Reported by
Party City	20% of sales	Senior Vice President of Investor Relations, (email)
The Dollar Tree	1% of sales	Encinitas store manager (phone)
1-800-Flowers	15 % of sales	Employee (phone)
Vons (Santa Fe Dr.)	not allowed to report information	Employee, floral dept. (phone)
Ralphs	Could not estimate	Store Manager (phone)
Stater Bros	Does not know the information	Assistant Manager (phone)
99 Cents Only	Does not know the information	Manager (phone)
Smart n' Final	Did not know the information	Store Manager (phone)

Table 2. Cities with Lighter than Air Balloon Ordinances		
Location	Description	Municipal Code or News Article
New Shoreham, RI	Banned the sale, use, and release of all balloons.	https://clerkshq.com/newshoreham-ri
Nantucket, MA	Banned the sale, use, and release of all lighter than air balloons.	https://ecode360.com/30483231
Provincetown, MA	Banned the sale, use, and release of all lighter than air balloons.	http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/323/General-Bylaw-Ch-13?bidId=
Hermosa Beach, CA	Banned the release of all lighter than air balloons and the sale of mylar balloons.	http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach08/HermosaBeach0864.html#8.64.060
Glendale, CA	Banned the sale and distribution of Mylar balloons	https://qcode.us/codes/glendale/
Suffolk County, NY	Banned the release of all lighter than air balloons.	https://ecode360.com/14944310
Malibu, CA	Voted to ban the sale of all balloons (Oct. 8, 2018).	https://www.californiacitynews.org/2018/10/malibu-council-votes-ban-balloons.html
California	Bans the release of all Mylar balloons	https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/penal-code/pen-sect-653-1.html
Massachusetts Maryland	Working balloon bans	https://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2020-02-28/balloon-bans-take-flight-across-the-country

Model Ordinance Banning Sale, Use, and Release of Lighter than Air Balloons

1 AN ORDINANCE of the [insert name of jurisdiction] AMENDING [if ordinance is amended prior legislation, insert reference]

Section 1. Purpose The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the wildlife and ecosystems of [name of jurisdiction], the enjoyment of nature, and the health, safety, and welfare of [name of jurisdiction]'s residents and visitors by banning the sale, use and release of all lighter than air balloons as it has been determined that balloons pose a risk and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals, so as to constitute a public nuisance.

Section 2. Definitions Balloon: a flexible nonporous bag made from materials such as rubber, latex, polychloroprene or nylon fabric that can be inflated or filled with fluid, such as helium, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, oxygen, air or water and then sealed at the neck, usually used as a toy or decoration

Section 3. Regulated Conduct It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, use, distribute, or release any type of lighter than air filled balloon (including, and not limited to latex and Mylar balloons). No person shall dispose of any balloon in any manner, including by release into the air, other than being contained in a trash bag and disposed of in a trash can.

Section 4. Enforcement and Penalties [Relevant government department and division] shall have the authority to enforce this ordinance. This ordinance may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including but not limited to, noncriminal disposition pursuant to [reference to pertinent code]. Each day of violation, after written notice, is a separate violation. If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any person that violates any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties: First Offense: written warning, Second Offense: \$225 penalty, Third and subsequent offense: \$500 penalty.

Section 5. Severability If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions of this ordinance. Such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effective Date This ordinance shall take effect on [Month date, year]. 1 Based on ordinance in New Shoreham, RI prohibiting the sale and use of balloons. PSI developed this potential model based on actual legislation. The specific language used may not necessarily reflect the views of PSI, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

<https://www.productstewardship.us/page/PlasticPolicies>

Municipal Code Examples

Town of New Shoreham, Rhode Island

Article V – Prohibition on sale and use of balloons

6-60. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the wildlife and coastal ecosystems of Block Island, the enjoyment of nature, and the health, safety, and welfare of Block Island's residents and visitors by banning the use of balloons as it has been determined that balloons pose a risk and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals, so as to constitute a public nuisance.

6-61. Definitions:

Balloon: a flexible nonporous bag made from materials such as rubber, latex, polychloroprene or nylon fabric that can be inflated or filled with fluid, such as helium, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, oxygen, air or water and then sealed at the neck, usually used as a toy or decoration.

6-62. Regulations.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, use or distribute any type of balloon (including, and not limited to latex, Mylar balloons, or water balloons). No person shall dispose of any balloon in any manner, including by release into the air, other than being contained in a trash bag and transported to the Transfer Station.

Town of Nantucket, Massachusetts

§ 125-2.1 Prohibitions on use and sale of balloons.

No person shall sell, use or distribute any type of balloon (including, and not limited to, plastic, latex or Mylar balloons) inflated with any type of lighter-than-air gas (including, and not limited to, helium gas). No person shall dispose of any balloon in any manner, including by release into the air, other than being contained in a plastic trash bag and transported to the Landfill. Any person violating this bylaw shall be fined pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1, Article II, by noncriminal disposition at \$50 per offense. This bylaw may be enforced by any police officer of the Town of Nantucket.

Provincetown, Massachusetts

13. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES ... 13-2-14. Prohibition of helium-filled balloons. The sale, use, and distribution of helium filled balloons, both for public and private use, is prohibited.

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-_____ DRAFT

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ENCINITAS ADOPTING
A LOCAL LAW TO PROHIBIT THE SALE AND RELEASE OF HELIUM OR LIGHER
THAN AIR FILLED BALLOONS**

WHEREAS, the Ocean Conservancy determined that latex and Mylar balloons are the most common form of floating garbage within 200 miles of American shorelines.¹

WHEREAS, beach litter surveys have shown that the number of balloons and balloon pieces found on beaches has tripled in the past 10 years.²

WHEREAS, balloon debris can have a negative economic impact by contributing to dirty beaches, parks and communities which can create added costs to city budgets and discourage tourism.³

WHEREAS, the Ocean Conservancy lists balloons as the second most dangerous debris item since they are frequently mistaken as food by sea life, birds, and mammals. When balloons are ingested, they block the animals' digestive track, which leads to a loss of nutrition, internal injury, starvation and death.¹

WHEREAS, the Ocean Conservancy states that balloon ribbon is also hazardous because it can choke or entangle birds, mammals, and marine life in a manner that limits their mobility.^{1,4}

WHEREAS, balloons are composed of materials that cannot be digested by marine life, causing animals to either choke on the balloon or creating an intestinal obstruction which will kill the animal.²

WHEREAS, Mylar or foil balloons are petroleum-based and not biodegradable and latex-based balloons contain petroleum-based additives and are therefore not 100% biodegradable, the release of both of these types of balloons result in additional plastic pollution to our oceans and coasts.⁴

WHEREAS, the metallic coating on Mylar balloons poses a risk to our communities by sparking fires and interrupting electric service to essential facilities such as hospitals, schools, and traffic lights. Over the past five years mylar balloons have been identified as the cause of more than 500 power outages in the San Diego region's electrical system.^{5, 6}

WHEREAS, helium is a unique and precious non-renewable resource important to science, industry and medicine that is predicted to become depleted in 25 years due to human use.^{7, 8}

WHEREAS, balloon debris on Encinitas City beaches is prolific despite the existing state and city ordinances that prohibit littering.^{9, 10}

WHEREAS, the most effective way to reduce balloon debris in the city's waterways and protect the environment is to prohibit the sale and intentional release of lighter than air filled balloons because they frequently escape into the atmosphere and ultimately become coastal pollution.^{1, 2}

Therefore, the purpose of this local law is to prohibit the sale, use, and release of lighter than air filled balloons for the reasons aforementioned. This ban would not apply to scientific balloons released by the state or federal governments and/or hot air balloons.

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1. Wilcox, Chris, et al. "Using Expert Elicitation to Estimate the Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Marine Wildlife." *Marine Policy*, vol. 65, 2016, pp. 107–14. *Crossref*, doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2015.10.014. (ocean conservancy).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X15002985>

2. Balloons Blow. 2021. *Impacts on Wildlife & the Environment - Balloons Blow*. [online] Available at: <<https://balloonsblow.org/impacts-on-wildlife-and-environment/>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://balloonsblow.org/impacts-on-wildlife-and-environment/>

3. Blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov. 2018. *What Goes Up, Must Come Down! / OR&R's Marine Debris Program*. [online] Available at: <<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/what-goes-must-come-down>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/what-goes-must-come-down>

4. Duncan, Debra. "Balloons: Balloons Pose a Risk to Wildlife and the Environment." *Environmental Nature Center*, ENC, 2016, encenter.org/visit-us/programs/birthday-parties/balloons.

<https://encenter.org/visit-us/programs/birthday-parties/balloons/>

5. Gibson, K., 2020. *Mylar balloons are fun! They're also a dangerous menace*. [online] Cbsnews.com. Available at: <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mylar-balloons-and-power-lines-a-potentially-explosive-mix/>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mylar-balloons-and-power-lines-a-potentially-explosive-mix/#:~:text=They're%20also%20a%20dangerous%20menace,-By%20Kate%20Gibson&text=Beyond%20disrupting%20electric%20service%2C%20mylar,weeks%20and%20float%20for%20miles.>

ATTACHMENT 3

6. Nikolewski, R., 2020. *Power lines and Mylar balloons don't mix*. [online] San Diego Union-Tribune. Available at: <<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2020-05-19/power-lines-and-mylar-balloons-dont-mix>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2020-05-19/power-lines-and-mylar-balloons-dont-mix>

7. BBC News. “*Helium Shortages: Should It Be Used for Party Balloons?* - CBBC Newsround.” *BBC News*, BBC, May 2019, Available at: <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48237672>> [Accessed 31 January 2021].

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48237672#:~:text=While%20balloons%20are%20fun%2C%20helium,tasks%2C%20rather%20than%20simply%20decorations.>

8. Thayer, Kate. “5 Things to Know about Helium, the Shortage and Why Retailers Are 'Panicked' about Balloons.” *Tribune*, San Diego Union-Tribune, 29 May 2019, www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/mc-life-helium-shortage-five-things-cb-tt-20190528-20190529-rhidnfflhbf3cv25wgnl4wsci-story.html.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/mc-life-helium-shortage-five-things-cb-tt-20190528-20190529-rhidnfflhbf3cv25wgnl4wsci-story.html>

9. State law:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN§ionNum=374.4#:~:text=374.4.,is%20guilty%20of%20an%20infraction.

10. City ordinance:

<http://www.qcode.us/codes/encinitas/>